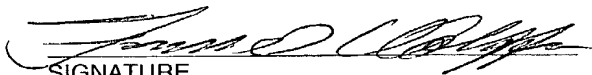


10070384.071902

JC10 Rec'd PCT/PTO 06 MAR 2002

FORM PTO-1390U S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (REV 10-2000) TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO 000771.00029
		U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, See 37 CFR 1.5) TBA 10/070384
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO PCT/NL00/00609	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 1 September 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 15 September 1999
TITLE OF INVENTION MEASUREMENT OF MOISTURE OF POTTING SOIL		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Cornelis F. T. VISSER		
Applicant herewith submits to the United State Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:		
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to promptly begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (PCT Article 31). 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(2)). 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). 9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). 10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).		
Items 11-16 below concern other document(s) or information included:		
11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98. 12. <input type="checkbox"/> An Assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 15. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: International Search Report (ISA/EPO)		

JC13 Rec'd PCT/PTO 06 MAR 2002

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, give 37 CFR 1.51) TBA 107070384		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/NL00/00609		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO. 000771.00029	
17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):				CALCULATIONS	PTO USE ONLY
Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO				\$1,040.00	
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO				\$890.00	
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.455(a)(2)) paid to USPTO				\$740.00	
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)				\$710.00	
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)				\$100.00	
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =				\$890.00	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e))				\$0.00	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total Claims	20 -20 =	0	X \$18.00	\$0.00	
Independent Claims	3 - 3 =	0	X \$ 84.00	\$0.00	
Multiple dependent claims (if applicable)			X \$280.00	\$0.00	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$890.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated below above are reduced by 1/2.				\$0.00	
SUBTOTAL =				\$890.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$0.00	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$890.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property.				\$0.00	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$890.00	
+				Amount to be:	\$
				refunded	
				charged	\$
a. <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$_____ to cover the above fees is enclosed. b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. 19-0733 in the amount of <u>\$890.00</u> to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. <input type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0733. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.					
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Banner & Witcoff, Ltd. Eleventh Floor 1001 G Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001-4597 Telephone: (202) 508-9100					
<div style="text-align: right;">  SIGNATURE Franklin D. Wolffe Registration No. 19,724 Date: March 6, 2002 </div>					

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Cornelis F. T. VISSER

Serial No.: TBA

Filed: Herewith

For: MEASUREMENT OF MOISTURE OF
POTTING SOIL

Atty. Dkt. No.: 000771.00029

U.S. National Stage of

International Application No.:

PCT/NL00/00609

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PCT

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination and calculation of any claim fees, please amend the instant application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT:

After the claims of the specification, insert the attached Abstract of the Disclosure.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, after the title of the invention, insert the following section:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS:

This is a U.S. National Phase Application under 35 U.S.C. § 371 and applicant herewith claims the benefit of priority of PCT/NL00/00609 filed September 1, 2000, which was published Under PCT Article 21(2) in English, which claims priority to Dutch Application No. 1013057, filed September 15, 1999, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Page 1, between the title of the application and the first paragraph, insert the heading FIELD OF THE INVENTION.

Page 1, between lines 4 and 5, insert the heading BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.

Page 1, between lines 25 and 26, insert the heading BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.

Page 2, between lines 29 and 30, insert the heading BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS.

Page 2, between lines 36 and 37, insert the heading DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 7, 9, 10, and 11, with the following amended claims:

7. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that a leveling device is placed above the conveyor belt upstream of the measuring member for leveling to a uniform height the material carried along on the conveyor belt.
9. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the supply vessel is tiltable.
10. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the apparatus is also suitable for preparing bulk material with the desired moisture content in that a water supply device is placed above the supply vessel in order to supply water to the supply vessel.
11. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed claim 4, characterized in that the apparatus is provided with a dispensing device for dispensing additives.

Please insert the following new claims 12-20:

12. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that a leveling device is placed above the conveyor belt upstream of the measuring member for leveling to a uniform height the material carried along on the conveyor belt.
13. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the supply vessel is tiltable.
14. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the supply vessel is tiltable.
15. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the supply vessel is tiltable.
16. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the supply vessel is tiltable.
17. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the apparatus is also suitable for preparing bulk material with the desired moisture content in that a water supply device is placed above the supply vessel in order to supply water to the supply vessel.
18. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the apparatus is also suitable for preparing bulk material with the desired moisture content in that a water supply device is placed above the supply vessel in order to supply water to the supply vessel.
19. (New) Apparatus as claimed claim 6, characterized in that the apparatus is provided with a dispensing device for dispensing additives.
20. (New) Apparatus as claimed claim 10, characterized in that the apparatus is provided with a dispensing device for dispensing additives.

REMARKS

By this amendment, an Abstract has been inserted and multiple dependencies have been eliminated. Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Examination on the merits of the instant application is respectfully requested.

Annexed hereto is a marked-up version of the amendments made in the instant amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



Franklin D. Wolffe
Reg. No. 19,724

Date: March 6, 2002

Banner & Witcoff, Ltd.
1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20001-4597
(202) 508-9100

Attachment:

1. Marked-Up Version of Amendments Made
2. Abstract of the Disclosure

FDW:lab

7. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 ~~or 6~~, characterized in that a ~~levelling~~leveling device is placed above the conveyor belt upstream of the measuring member for ~~levelling~~leveling to a uniform height the material carried along on the conveyor belt.
9. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~any of the claims 4-8~~claim 4, characterized in that the supply vessel is tiltable.
10. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~any of the claims 4-9~~claim 4, characterized in that the apparatus is also suitable for preparing bulk material with the desired moisture content in that a water supply device is placed above the supply vessel in order to supply water to the supply vessel.
11. (Amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~any of the claims 4-10~~claim 4, characterized in that the apparatus is provided with a dispensing device for dispensing additives.

1.0070394, 07090

MEASUREMENT OF MOISTURE OF POTTING SOIL

The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for determining the moisture content of bulk material, in particular growing substrate such as potting soil.

5 With the increased mechanization in horticulture it is important to manage the processing conditions for the plants as well as possible. One condition which has been poorly managed heretofore is the moisture content of growing substrate such as potting
10 soil. When wholly artificial substrates such as mineral wool and the like are used, it is possible to properly determine and manage the moisture content thereof. In the case of potting soil and mixtures of potting soil this is however much more difficult; the composition of the
15 potting soil is much more heterogeneous and moreover varies, while the water-retaining properties of potting soil are difficult to establish. The water content of potting soil is moreover highly variable, particularly if it has been stored for some time in the outside air.

20 There therefore exists a need for a method and an apparatus for determining the moisture content of potting soil. There is furthermore a need for a method and an apparatus for correcting the moisture content, in particular for increasing the moisture content to a
25 predetermined value.

 These objectives are achieved by a method which is characterized in that the volume of a quantity of bulk material, in particular growing substrate such as potting soil, is determined, the weight of the quantity of bulk
30 material is determined, the specific density is then determined from the volume and the weight, and finally the moisture content is determined by comparison with a table.

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figure 2, which shows a perspective detail view of such an apparatus.

Figure 1 shows a vessel 1 provided on its underside with four protrusions 2. Each of the four

protrusions 2 rests by means of a pressure sensor 3 on a frame 4. A conveyor belt 5 is arranged under the frame to transport the containers for filling, in this case boxes 6.

5 A stirring gear 8 is arranged in the vessel, which is provided with a conical bottom 7. Stirring gear 8 can be driven by means of an electric motor 9 shown clearly in figure 2 which drives a central shaft 11 of stirring gear 8 by means of a gear transmission 10.

10 Arranged inside the central shaft 11 of the stirring gear is a control shaft 12 which is non-rotatable but movable in vertical direction and which can move the conical bottom 7 upward and downward when driven by a linear drive element 13. This latter is connected to the outside

15 of vessel 1 by means of a frame 14. The up and downward movement of the conical bottom has the purpose of emptying vessel 1.

For supplying of potting soil use is made of a second conveyor belt 15 for bulk material. The second

20 conveyor belt 15 leads to a mixing vat 16 where the supplied material is reduced in size by means of a screw 17 and homogenized as well as possible. From mixing vat 16 the potting soil comes to lie on a third conveyor belt 18, which leads via a chute 19 to the top side of vessel

25 1. A laser measuring device 20 is arranged on chute 19 for measuring the height of the supplied strip of potting soil. According to the shown embodiment the laser height measuring device 20 is provided with a laser head which determines the height of the supplied quantity of soil by

30 means of a repetitive swinging movement. It is possible to make use of other types of laser measuring device, for instance provided with a levelling device.

Arranged for supplying water is a controllable tap 21 which is connected by means of a spout 22 to the

35 content of vessel 1.

The operation of the present invention will now be described during performing of the method according to the present invention.

Assuming that vessel 1 is empty, soil is fed to vessel 1 via conveyor belts 15, mixing vat 16, the third conveyor belt 18 and chute 19. The volume of soil supplied is herein determined by means of the integrating
5 laser height measuring device. When a desired volume quantity has been supplied, the feed of potting soil is stopped and the weighing device formed by pressure sensors 3 is activated. The weight resulting herefrom is carried to a measuring computer, not shown in the
10 drawings, whereafter the computer determines the density of the quantity of potting soil on the basis of the weight. It is hereby possible, and with reference to a for instance empirically formulated table, to determine the moisture content of the potting soil. It is herein
15 possible to employ different types of table for different types of potting soil.

It will usually be the desire not only to know the density of the potting soil but also to correct it. If the potting soil is too dry, it is easy to add water.
20 For this purpose the control device is connected to a tap 21 with which it is possible to feed a predetermined volume of water to vessel 1. Stirring gear 8 can then be activated to make a homogeneous mixture. It will be apparent that it is only possible to moisten potting soil
25 which is too dry; the reverse procedure is of course not possible. It is however possible to mix the moist potting soil with dry potting soil from another source. In order to make this possible the components indicated with reference numerals 15-20 will have to be duplicated.

30 Once an homogeneous mixture has been obtained by the action of stirring gear 8, the bottom 7 is moved downward by means of linear drive device 13, whereafter the released soil can be poured into containers 6 in per se known manner. Once vessel 1 is empty, the whole
35 process can be repeated.

It will be apparent that with the use of a computer countless variations of the described method can be applied.

It is thus possible to make use of a drag chain. Such a chain extends in lengthwise direction of the chute. Mounted at regular distances on such a chain are carriers which are each suitable for carrying along a predetermined quantity of bulk material as the chain with the carriers moves along the chute.

It is pointed out here that the computer usually fulfils a particular function in determining the volume by integrating the signals originating from the laser height measuring device 20.

It is further possible to arrange a dispensing device on the mixing vat in order to add additives such as fertilizer, pesticides/herbicides and so on to the growing substrate.

CLAIMS

1. Method for determining the moisture content of bulk material, in particular growing substrate such as potting soil, **characterized in that**

- the volume of a quantity of bulk material is
5 determined,

- the weight of the quantity of bulk material is determined,

- the specific density is then determined from the volume and the weight, and

10 - finally the moisture content is determined by comparison with a table.

2. Method for preparing bulk material, in particular potting soil, with a predetermined moisture content, **characterized in that**

15 - the volume of a quantity of bulk material is determined,

- the weight of the quantity of bulk material is determined, and

20 - water is then added to the quantity of bulk material until the weight associated with the desired moisture content is obtained.

3. Method as claimed in claim 2, **characterized in that** after water has been added the bulk material is mixed with the water.

25 4. Apparatus for determining the moisture content of bulk material, in particular potting soil, **characterized in that** the apparatus comprises:

- a supply vessel placed on a weighing device;

30 - a feed device for feeding predetermined volumes to the supply vessel;

- a discharge device for the supply vessel; and

- a computer for determining the moisture content from the supplied volume and the measured weight.

35 5. Apparatus as claimed in claim 4, **characterized in that** the feed device comprises a

conveyor belt which comprises a measuring member for measuring the height of the bulk material carried along on the conveyor belt, and that the computer is adapted to determine from the measured height the quantity of material carried along on the conveyor belt.

6. Apparatus as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the measuring member comprises a laser source and a laser detector, wherein these elements are adapted to determine the height of the material carried along on the conveyor belt.

7. Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 or 6, characterized in that a levelling device is placed above the conveyor belt upstream of the measuring member for levelling to a uniform height the material carried along on the conveyor belt.

8. Apparatus as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the feed device comprises a chute in which are placed carriers which are mounted on a movable chain and which are each adapted to carry along a predetermined volume.

9. Apparatus as claimed in any of the claims 4-8, characterized in that the supply vessel is tiltable.

10. Apparatus as claimed in any of the claims 4-9, characterized in that the apparatus is also suitable for preparing bulk material with the desired moisture content in that a water supply device is placed above the supply vessel in order to supply water to the supply vessel.

11. Apparatus as claimed in any of the claims 4-10, characterized in that the apparatus is provided with a dispensing device for dispensing additives.

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
22 March 2001 (22.03.2001)

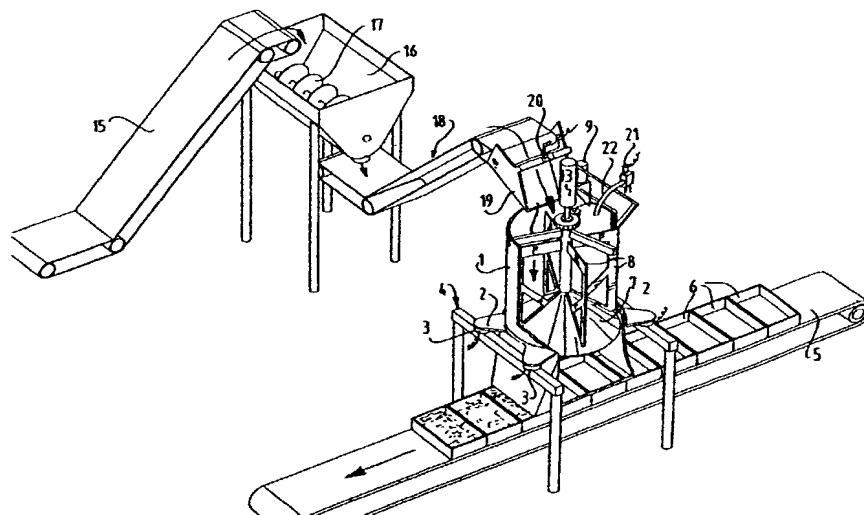
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/19165 A1

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- (21) International Application Number: PCT/NL00/00609
- (22) International Filing Date:
1 September 2000 (01.09.2000)
- (25) Filing Language: Dutch
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
1013057 15 September 1999 (15.09.1999) NL
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): VISSER 'S-GRAVENDEEL HOLDING B.V. [NL/NL]; Beneden Havendijk 115-A, NL-3295 XB 's-Gravendeel (NL).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): VISSER, Cornelis, Frans, Taco [NL/NL]; Molenvliet 7, NL-3295 LJ 's-Gravendeel (NL).
- (74) Agent: EVELEENS MAARSE, Pieter; Arnold & Siedsma, Sweelinckplein 1, NL-2517 GK The Hague (NL).
- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:**
- With international search report.
 - Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments.

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MEASUREMENT OF MOISTURE OF POTTING SOIL



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method and apparatus for determining the moisture content of bulk material, in particular potting soil, wherein the volume of a quantity of bulk material is determined, the weight of the quantity of bulk material is determined, the specific density is then determined from the volume and the weight, and finally the moisture content is determined by comparison with a table. The invention further relates to a method and apparatus for preparing bulk material, in particular potting soil, with a predetermined moisture content, wherein the volume of a quantity of bulk material is determined, the weight of the quantity of bulk material is determined, and water is then added to the quantity of bulk material until the weight associated with the desired moisture content is obtained.

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PCT/NL00/00609

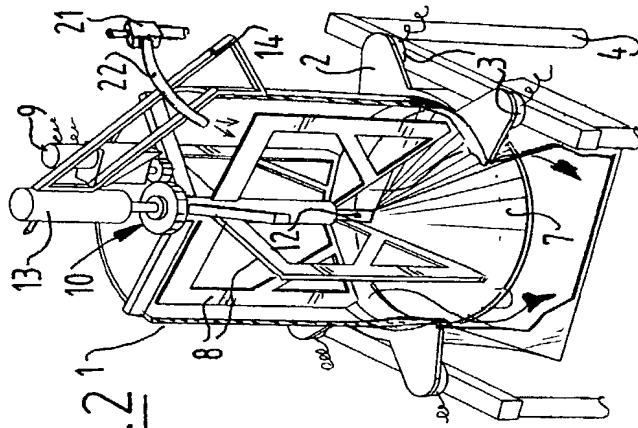


FIG. 2

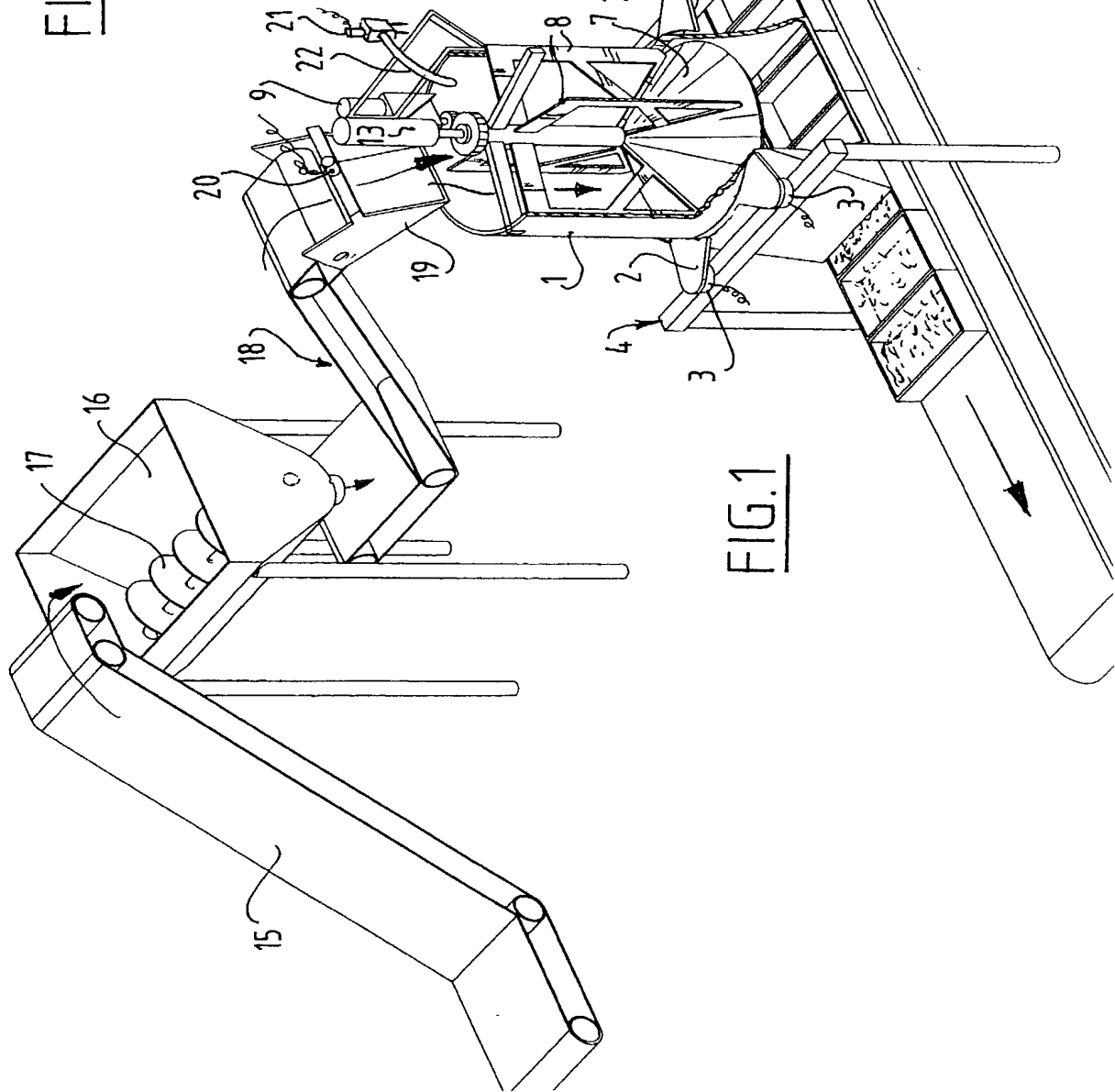


FIG. 1

Banner & Witcoff Ref. No.
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000771.00029
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Power of Attorney

And I hereby appoint, both jointly and severally, as my attorneys, all Banner & Witcoff, Ltd. attorneys indicated therein under PTO Customer Number #22907, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office.

All correspondence and telephone communications should be addressed to:

Banner & Witcoff, Ltd.

Customer Number: 22907 (WDC)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

100
Signature [Signature] Date 10 JUNE 2002.
Full Name of Inventor VISSER Cornelis F. T.
Family Name First Given Name Second Given Name
Residence (city, state or country) 's-Gravendeel, the Netherlands NLX Citizenship Dutch
Post Office Address Molenvliet 7, NL-3295 JL 's-Gravendeel, the Netherlands

Banner & Witcoff Ref. No.
Client Ref. No.

000771.00029
G/AD76/MvZ/36

SOLE DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled MEASUREMENT OF MOISTURE OF POTTING SOIL, the specification of which

- ☐ is attached hereto.
- ☒ was filed on March 6, 2002 as Application Serial Number 10/070,384 and was amended on March 6, 2002 (if applicable).
- ☒ was filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and accorded International Application No. PCT/NL00/00609, filed September 1, 2000, and amended on _____ (if any).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I hereby acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

Prior Foreign Application(s)

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Country	Application No.	Date of Filing (day month year)	Date of Issue (day month year)	Priority Claimed Under 35 U.S.C. §119
Netherlands	1013057	15 September 1999		yes

Prior United States Provisional Application(s)

I hereby claim priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e)(1) of any U.S. provisional application listed below:

U.S. Provisional Application No.	Date of Filing (day month year)	Priority Claimed Under 35 U.S.C. §119(e)(1)

Prior United States Application(s)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application Serial No.	Date of Filing (Day, Month, Year)	Status - Patented, Pending, Abandoned